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JoAnn D 2

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Rodney Bennett
SERIAL NO.: 09/788,113
FILING DATE: February 16, 2001
TITLE: System and Method for Automating the Assembly, Processing and
Delivery of Documents
EXAMINER: Chongshan Chen
GROUP ART UNIT: 2172
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 21532-04870

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Declaration of Rodney Bennett

I, Rodney Bennett, hereby declare the following:

1. I am the sole inventor of the invention described and claimed in United States Patent Application Number 09/788,113, entitled "System and Method for Automating the Assembly, Processing and Delivery of Documents," filed on February 16, 2001 ("the Application"). The Application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from the co-pending United States Provisional Application Number 60/182,839, filed on February 16, 2000 ("the Provisional Application"). I am providing this declaration to establish that the invention described and claimed in the Application was conceived prior to the December 17, 1999, the filing date of United States Patent 6,526,403 to Lin et al., issued February 25, 2003 ("Lin"), and the invention was diligently reduced to

Fenwick & West LLP

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practice beginning prior to the filing date of Lin. The Examiner cited Lin in the Office communication dated March 13, 2003.

2. I was employed as a software developer for Real Consulting LLC on or before July 1998 to about July 2000. Real Consulting has a place of business in Grass Valley, California. Real Consulting LLC is the assignee of the Application.

3. On or before February 2, 1999, I conceived of the system and method for automating the assembly, processing, and delivery of documents that are now described and claimed in the Application. On that date, I attended an internal development meeting where we discussed the NetTransport system, including the functionality that is the subject of the Application. From that time until the filing of the Provisional Application on February 16, 2000, I was working with Jerry Rufener on writing the software that implements the system and method for automating the assembly, processing, and delivery of documents that are described and claimed in the Application.

4. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a document entitled "Devcon 2" that memorializes the development of the software for the NetTransport System as of Feb 2, 1999.

5. Accordingly, I conceived the invention described and claimed by the Application prior to the application date of Lin and exercised diligence in constructively reducing the invention to practice in the Provisional Application dated February 16, 2000.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further

that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

8-8-03
Date



Rodney Bennett



Exhibit A

DEVCON 2

Friday 2/19/99 – Monday 2/22/99

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Friday, 2/19/99

Overview of company activities, business (Dale Debber)

TimeKeeper - (Dale Debber)

Kevin will be developing enhanced reporting capabilities

Very important to break out hours to proper categories because of client billing

Be as descriptive as possible

To be linked to OTIS

Project Definitions – (Jon Wells)

Rapids

How SCIF tracks status of policies

TopCat for territorial clearances

PreApp tracks routing of policies

NewBiz transfer database

Brokers

Mailings

(is 16-bit now, roll-out to all districts to become 32-bit)

Compline

Provides Xmods to brokers who write W/C

Contelligence

The "Compline" for licensed contractors in CA

SCIF has requested this

Will integrate with other products

Newsopoly

Allows publishers to put up ecommerce/pay-per-view

Mass distribution of content

OTIS

Now used to track anomalies

Task management
A new class of business management software

Verify

Checks SS #s for deaths, validity

Management Issues (Dale)

Visual Source Safe to include specs for all projects
Issue of SQL area/source discussed

! AI Dan will develop spec for document standard
3rd party DLLs
Build/install process and material list

Colocation in San Jose (8x8 cage); also in DC

Fresno Office

Operational Tue or Wed 2/23, 2/24
Jon will be present for Pac Bell

New Personnel

Forest Cox, Cookie Chan, John Aurelius, Sharon O'Donohough

Developer responsible for each tool used (Dale Debber)

Version current
Will be on email list for updates from vendor
"Center of excellence" for that tool
Inventory of tools needed
It is OK to use non-MS products
Focus on saving time

Server Issues (Jon Wells)

New permissions will be in effect
How much will server/domain name affect app?
Standard server configuration and app build procedure

Intellectual Properties

Patents/copyrights to be documented
"First to conceive" concept is important

! AI 800 number dial-in line needed

No compelling reason to go to JAVA

Tool standardization (Dan Ribb)

Problem is different versions of app tools, different DLLs on server

! AI Identify levels of SW for each product (ervice pack version)

Discussion of Dev PCs

No beta versions

3rd party SW to be reviewed before use

Compile on clean "Buildmaster PC" from SourceSafe to QA

! AI Investigate SW that keeps inventory of DLLs

! AI Li Chen will get Visual SourceSafe versioning procedure right
Standard tools on Dev PCs - VS 6.0, SP2 is now the standard
Clean "Build PC" (Rodney has had experience with county)

! AI We are moving to SQL 7.
So far, Li's testing OK; needs more testing and implementation

! AI Dan is to receive all 3rd party tools by Friday 2/26/99

! AI Rodney will get "language" of of SCIF project special modules to Dale for SCIF ownership

! AI Dan will investigate shared directories in Visual SourceSafe.

! AI Each "POD" manager will look into variable naming standard

Books recommended by Li Chen

"Inside Comm" by Dale Rogerson

"Distributed Components with VB" by Pattison

Hijaak or other "BMP to JPG/GIF" converter for Don Butler

Saturday, 2/20/99

Compline (Dan Ribb)

Over half the feature set included in last year's release

MS Exchange has had network problems

Driven by ASP and stored procedures

Browser independent

RiskList queries can take time (5 minutes or more); maybe execute like

ModWatch

Wait until SQL 7.0 to review RiskList procedures
ModWatch email notification feature
Log file of user activity on Dev
User traffic very important since future sites will be advertising-based
WebTrends SW can produce most reports
Login is machine-specific and will move to prod

! AI Testing on security issues on next push
Push button for "CompNews.htm" so Dale can put news content on Compline screen

! AI Admin features ready to push (with Muni edit)
Close to automatic update push

! AI 1:30 pm Friday 2/26/99 deadline for update, or email storm!

! AI Every tape must have file comparison done
Dan will compile all loose specs on this subject, Type-5 issues
Separate method to process Type-5's

! AI Service bureau (MCRB) to read old tapes per Jon's specs

Verify (Rodney)

Have all components, uses same security as Compline
There has been some activity
Banner rotation
Web Trends logs have been kept

Contelligence (Rodney)

Data model, specs done, peer review
Billable to SCIF
Need for common procedures and definitions (Enterprise object)
Revenue to be by usage

! AI Rodney to get MS spec for database compliance

Three-Tier Object Model

VB Abstracts send to common delegate, then to UDM that talks to Server
Issues:
Points of failure
Updates

New layer
Code re-use

Rapids 32 (Li Chen)

16 bit VB 4 talking to SQL server

Business rules on VB side or in Stored Procedures

TCP/IP protocol, using 1433 port

PreApp runs inside browser, using http, talking to IIS server

32-Bit version:

Communicates with Business Object

BO talks to SQL server

3-Tier allows better code

RDS (Remote Data Service), DCOM are new MS products

more closely tied to Windows security features

IIS4 and RDS Proxy used

RapidsRDFDataFactory allows security

We know there's a problem before the client knows

The ugly side:

(1) Terms letter preview (MS Word, vs previewer)

(2) Crystal Reports is banned

NetTransport (Rodney)

NT service that generates and transports the document as RTF (rich text format)

May be used to:

Replace SQL mail and its problems

Be a fax solution

! AI When to implement for SCIF

WCIS/Broker Database (SCIF)

Oracle-based for outside broker business generation/commissions

Multiple entry into numerous databases (Access, Rapids, etc.)

Proposed new database will be central point for all users

Sunday, 2/21/99

Network/server issues (Jon Wells)

Single-tiered firewall:
Multiple IIS servers
SQL server must reside behind the firewall

Newsopoly (John Aurelius)

3 Areas:

Reader
User (publisher)
SysAdmin & support

Internet Search Engine issues need research, clarification and testing

SQL 7 will likely resolve many issues

! AI John Aurelius will find an internet search engine consultant

Dale points out that hardware costs are likely to be small compared to the revenue generated from thousands of Newsopoly publishers.

Third-party Credit Card/Search Engine/Forum software will be considered.

Overwrites of images should not be allowed; customer service handle it.

MTS Security (Dan Ribb)

! AI Will formalize business object sharing/documentation
Try to avoid duplication of effort...POD managers to communicate
John A. to get ALAIR forums running

! AI Li Chen to install Visual Component Manager and related components

UML (programmer documentation language)

! AI Dan to create documentation standards for documentation for SCIF.

! AI Within a few days of push to PROD, "how-to's" must be pushed. (Quick Courses)

! AI Get Lads to create Quick Courses for Rapids

! AI Need Index Server issues on OTIS!

SQL 7.0 implementation plan:

Reindexing will be time-consuming

Backup needs testing
Jon W. will coordinate

Y2K Issues (Rich Couch)

Three dates with impact: 9/9/99, 1/1/2000, 4/1/2000

! AI Ken to coordinate with John Aurelius on mm/dd/ccyy format

Assignments for Dev Tools: (Affectionado)

VB - Li Chen
Crystal Reports - New review by Dan
InstallShield - Rich Couch
Truegrid Pro - Li
Spyworks - Li
Crescent QuickPack Pro 4 upgrade - Li (share with John Aurelius)
VB SourceBook - (to buy) Li
Cold Fusion (by Alair) - John Aurelius
O'Reilly Web Board - to be evaluated by John Aurelius

Suggestions:

Status of servers (Rich Couch)
Working at home - Laptops may eventually help solve this

! AI Ken to begin using OTIS to track projects

MS Project Manager discussed and it was determined that overhead involved with implementing would be too great.

Network shutdowns are usually very brief.

Certification:

Li needs to informed of everyone's current status
All developers are "encouraged" to be certified

! AI Dale to appoint Project Managers & PM's to schedule meetings

! AI Jon W. to buy Resource Kit (if any) for SQL 7

Monday, 2/22/99

Personnel Priorities:

Organizational Chart to be done soon.

Jukebox pros & cons

Alternatives -

DVD

Old PCs with multiple CDs

Contents on large network hard drive

! AI Li Chen will inform us on how to logon with MS Solution Provider

Dan Ribb suggested having some alternative database/unix servers to test.

Discussion on need for middle-tier non-MS databases. Dale does not want developer resources invested in non-MS database compatibility. If they work incidentally, great!

Conclusion: On internal projects (Rapids, Compline, Verify, Contelligence) consideration to optimize MS SQL 7 capabilities. OTIS and Newsopoly should be written with Level 2 compatibility in mind. Stay with 3-tier for its other benefits.

NT 5.0 Considerations: (jw)

Suggest putting up an NT 5.0 server for testing

Likely to need to upgrade in 1 to 2 years

Proposed Devcon 3

Thursday 5/20 or 6/3; possibly Monterey area.

SQL 7 Task Team:

Licensing more of an issue (per seat) with SQL 7.0

! AI Li will check with MS on licensing and what we get as solution providers

! AI Jon will establish timetable for SQL 7 switchover (Prod, SCIF, Compline)